

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01

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R 222300Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4066

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM, SREF, CVIS

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: A. SANTIAGO 3336; B. SANTIAGO 1678

1. SUMMARY: DURING PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 21, MININTERIOR
BENAVIDES ISSUED LATEST OFFICIAL GOC STATISTICS ON NUMBER OF
POLITICAL DETAINEES AS OF JULY 15. TOTAL NUMBER (4,168) HAS
INCREASED BY 357 SINCE MID-MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. BENAVIDES SAID THAT AS OF JULY 15, THERE WERE A TOTAL
OF 653 PERSONS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE
REGULATIONS (CATEGORY I), COMPARED TO 703 IN MID-MAY AND
1417 IN MID-MARCH (REFTELS). OF 653, ACCORDING TO MINISTER,
VENEZUELA HAS ACCEPTED 10, AND PANAMA 100; ANOTHER 198 HAVE
BEEN ISSUED EXPULSION DECREES BUT HAVE YET TO BE PLACED
OVERSEAS, AND THE REMAINING 345 HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED EXPULSION
DECREES. COMMENT: GOC SPOKESMEN HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED
THAT A HARD CORE OF DETAINEES "TOO DANGEROUS TO RELEASE"
WILL REMAIN AFTER DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM IS COMPLETED.
MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE 345 PROBABLY FALL IN THIS CATEGORY,
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ALTHOUGH THAT NUMBER DOUBTLESS INCLUDES SOME RECENT DETAINEES

WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN PROCESSED BY GOC, PLUS SOME WHOM
GOC WOULD BE WILLING TO EXILE BUT WHO REFUSE TO GO. END COMMENT.

3. ALL 653 ARE PRESENTLY HELD IN FOUR DETENTION CENTERS:

TRES ALAMOS-207; PUCHUNCAMI-216; RITOQUE-147; AND PIRQUE-83
(A NEW CAMP EXCLUSIVELY FOR WOMEN, MOST OF WHOM PREVIOUSLY
WERE AT TRES ALAMOS). BENAVIDES STATED DETENTION CENTERS ON
DAWSON ISLAND, PISAGUA, AND CHACABUCO ARE NOW CLOSED. HE
NOTED SLOWNESS OF RELEASE PROGRAM FOR THIS CATEGORY OF
DETAINEES IS DUE LARGELY TO RELUCTANCE OF MANY COUNTRIES TO
RECEIVE "EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS."

4. ACCORDING TO BENAVIDES, THERE ARE NOW 1,398 PERSONS SUBJECT
TO JUDICIAL PROCESS AWAITING TRIAL (CATEGORY II), COMPARED TO
779 IN MAY AND 1,780 IN MARCH.

5. CATEGORY III, THOSE CONVICTED AND SERVING SENTENCES, NOW
CONTAINS 2,117 PERSONS, COMPARED TO 2,329 IN MAY AND 1,557 IN
MARCH. OF THIS NUMBER, COMMUTATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY
DECREE 504 (SANTIAGO 3247) HAS APPROVED 171 CASES FOR EXILE,
REFUSED 3, AND REQUESTED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION ON 46 MORE.
NO INDICATION PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS YET CONFIRMED APPROVAL
OF MAJORITY OF THE 171 CASES.

6. TOTAL NUMBER OF DETAINEES IN ALL CATEGORIES IS NOW
4,168 COMPARED TO 3,811 IN MAY AND 4,754 IN MARCH.

7. COMMENT: BY GOC'S OWN FIGURES, THERE ARE NOW 357 MORE
SECURITY DETAINEES TODAY THAN IN MID-MAY, AND 593 MORE THAN
ON SEPT. 30, 1974 (SANTIAGO 6851, NOV. 11, 1974) WHEN
DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM MORE OR LESS BEGAN. THERE HAS
THEREFORE BEEN NO OVERALL PROGRESS IN THIS AREA OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN SPITE OF REPEATED GOC STATEMENTS OF GOOD INTENTIONS
AND RELEASE OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF DETAINEES WITHIN
COUNTRY OR INTO EXILE.

8. INCREASE SHOWN BY CURRENT STATISTICS OCCURS IN CATEGORY II.
CATEGORY I HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE SINCE MAY; INCREASE
IN CATEGORY II PROBABLY STEMS MAINLY FROM NEW CASES OF PERSONS
RECENTLY DETAINED BY GOC SECURITY FORCES AND TURNED OVER
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DIRECTLY TO (MILITARY) JUDICIAL SYSTEM, RATHER THAN FIRST
PASSING THROUGH CATEGORY I AS HAPPENED PREVIOUSLY.
THOMPSON

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